the 1st Afro-Asian Games, initially at Delhi and finally at Hyderabad, international standard sports infrastructures have been created/upgraded at both the places. In addition to Delhi and Hyderabad, infrastructure has also been upgraded at Patiala and Bangalore where a majority of the training camps are organized. All these infrastructures would meet the requirement of athletes for the forthcoming Olympic Games.

National sports policy, 2001

2000. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sports Policy, 2001 envisages use of Sports diplomacy by way of organising international sports and games for strengthening of bilateral and multilateral ties; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Sports Policy, 2001 envisages increased utilization of sports and related activities as a medium for promoting co-operation and friendship in the region, as also globally. Towards this objective, due emphasis has been laid on sports exchange programmes with different countries.

Encouraging sports

2001. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing and future plans to encourage sports other than cricket, football, hockey and tennis in the country; and

(b) the details of plans to upgrade or revamp sports infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) I. The following schemes are implemented by the Government of India to encourage sports in the country:

(i) Assistance to National Sports Federations for conduct of national sports tournaments, participation in international sports tournaments and for providing training and equipment support.

(ii) Grants for creation of sports infrastructure given to State Governments/NGOs.

(iii) Grants to rural schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of play grounds.

(iv) Grants for promotion of sports in universities and colleges.

(v) Grants for installation of synthetic playing surfaces.

(vi) Scheme of assisting promising sportspersons and supporting personnel.

(vii) Sports Scholarship scheme.

(viii) Scheme relating towards.

(ix) Incentive Schemes

(x) Scheme of State Sports Academies.

II. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) also implements the following sports promotional schemes to nurture budding talent so as to achieve excellence at State/National/International levels.

(i) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC) Sub-Junior (8-14 years)

(ii) Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (ABSC) Sub-Junior (8-14 years)

(iii) SAI Training Centre Scheme (STC) Junior & Senior (14-21 years)

(iv) Special Area Games (SAG) Junior & Senior (14-21 years)

(v) Centre of Excellence Schemes (COX) Senior National or Jr. Inter Winner (17-25 years)

The disciplines covered under these schemes are Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Cycling, Canoeing & Kayaking, Fencing, Gymnastics, Handball, Judo, Karate, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Rowing, Speak Takraw, Swimming, Shooting, Softball, Table Tennis, Taekwando, Volleyball, Wushu, Weightlifting, Wrestling and Indigenous games/martial arts.

Further, keeping in view the need for promoting sports in rural areas, SAI also implements the Rural Sports Programme, a scheme of the Ministry on agency basis. The SAI has also adopted 24 Navodaya Vidyalaya Schools during 2002-2003 with the same objective in view.

(b) Upgradation of sports infrastructure to keep pace with the training of athletes as per international standards in an ongoing process. In order to organize the first ever Afra-Asian Games, initially at Delhi and finally at Hyderabad, international standard infrastructures were upgraded/ created at both the places. Besides, for training of sports persons who have qualified/are likely to qualify for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, existing infrastrctures at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala and the SAI Regional Centre at Bangalore have also been upgraded.

Assistance for construction of new stadia in States

†2002. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the States, especially from Jharkhand, for the construction of indoor/outdoor stadia during the last three years;

(b) whether all the proposals have been accorded approval and the amount released for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) by when the rest of the proposals would be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The proposals received from the State Governments and found viable are provided Central admissible assistance under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure. The State-wise details of proposals received including those from Jharkhand for construction of Stadia during the last 3 years *i.e.* from 2000-01 to 2002-03 with details of Central assistance approved/ released have been given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) As stated above, the proposals found viable have already approved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.